

Congressional Notification Profile

DE-PS26-02NT41369

UNIVERSITY COAL RESEARCH PROGRAM, INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS PROGRAM
The Pennsylvania State University

Background and Technical Information:

Project Title: "Reaction Mechanism of Magnesium Silicates with Carbon Dioxide in Microwave Fields."

This project proposes to use the science behind microwave ovens to speed the rate at which magnesium silicates absorb carbon dioxide in flue gas streams. Two sets of experiments are outlined. The first involves directly exposing a CO₂ gas stream containing water vapor to magnesium silicates in modest temperatures in a microwave cavity. Reaction times as a matter of temperature, water vapor, partial pressure and particle size would be recorded. The second series of tests would expose aqueous solutions to CO₂ in high pressures and temperatures in a Teflon reactor in a microwave field. Microwave processing would be compared with non-microwave techniques that use similar compositions, temperatures and pressures.

Contact Information:

Selectee: Pennsylvania State University

Business Contact: Robert Baker

Business Office Address: Office of Sponsored Programs
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

Phone Number: 814-863-0715

Fax Number: 814-865-1008

E-mail: osp@psu.edu

Congressional District: 05 District

County: Centre

Financial Information:

Length of Contract (months): 12

Government Share: \$50,000

Total value of contract: \$50,000

DOE Funding Breakdown:

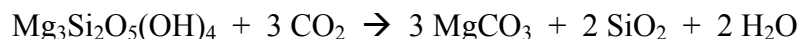
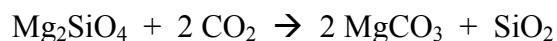
Funds: FY 2002 \$50,000

Reaction Mechanism of Magnesium Silicates with Carbon Dioxide in Microwave Fields

UCR Innovative Concepts, Phase I Program

Public Abstract

The proposed research concerns the sequestration of CO₂ by reactions with the magnesium silicates to produce environmentally benign MgCO₃.



These reactions are thermodynamically favorable but suffer from exceedingly slow reaction rates. Research by others has shown that reaction rates can be accelerated by use of aqueous carbonate solutions and high CO₂ pressures. The proposed research offers an alternative rate enhancement mechanism through the use of microwave fields.

Two series of experiments are proposed. In series (1) a gas stream of CO₂ containing variable amounts of water vapor would be reacted directly with the magnesium silicates at modest temperatures in a microwave cavity. The objective would be to determine the rate of reaction as a function of temperature, water vapor partial pressure, magnesium silicate particle size, and microwave power. In Series (2) experiments, aqueous solutions would be reacted with CO₂ under pressures up to 80 bars and temperatures up to 200 C in a Teflon high-pressure reactor in a microwave field. One objective of this portion of the research would be to compare the efficacy of microwave processing with similar compositions, temperatures, and pressures without microwaves.

The research project will be under the joint supervision of professors William B. White and Michael R. Silsbee, both of whom have extensive experience with chemical reactions at modest temperatures in ceramic and mineralogic systems. The project will take advantage of Penn State's Center for Microwave Processing, which is housed in the Materials Research Institute.

Points of Contact: Prof. William B. White, 210 Materials Research Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: 814-865-1152; e-mail: wbw2@psu.edu or Prof. Michael Silsbee, 108 Materials Research Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: 814-865-0285; e-mail: Silsbee@psu.edu